

Sermon Notes for August 28, 2011

A Biblical View Of The Home Sermon Series
“The Tremendous Impact
Of Mothers and Grandmothers”
II Timothy 1:3-7

Video

Introduction

A. The IMPORTANCE Of MOTHERS IN OUR LIVES.

1. Mother’s Day Proclamation

“Whereas the service rendered the United States by the **American mother** is the **greatest source of the country’s strength and admiration**; and whereas we honor ourselves and the mothers of America when we do anything to give emphasis to the home; and whereas **the American mother is doing so much for good government and humanity**, we declare that the second Sunday of May will henceforth be celebrated as Mother’s Day.

Presidential Proclamation 1914

2. Testimonies of the importance of mothers.

- a. Abraham Lincoln** – “All that I have ever become, **I owe to my angel mother**”
- b. Napoleon** – ““**Give France good mothers** and France will bare good sons.”
- c. Thomas Edison** – “It was at critical times in my life that **my mother believed in me**, and because of her faith in me, I became a great inventor.”
- d.** When **General James Garfield**, our 20th President, was inaugurated as President of the United States, **he asked his mother to be on the stage** so that he could thank her personally.

B. The IMPACT OF MOTHERS IN OUR LIVES

- 1.** Almost every **culture** around the world honors mothers with a special day
 - a. The Netherlands**
 - b. Finland**
 - c. Germany**
 - d. Latin America**
 - e. Spain**
 - f. South Africa**
 - g. Mexico**
 - h. Uruguay**
 - i. Ecuador**
 - j. Austria**
 - k. Singapore**
 - l. Philippines**
 - m. Costa Rica**
 - n. Slovakia**

- o. **Indonesia**
 - p. **Malaysia**
 - q. **Japan**
 - r. **The United States**
2. **Elizabeth Stone** – “Making the decision to have a child – it is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your **heart go walking around outside your body.**”
 3. **Some** believe that mothers are the **most important people in the world.**
 - a. **Pastor David Curtis** – “Wives and mothers, you must understand that **you are the most influential people in the entire world.** That is the role God has assigned to your life.
 - b. **Chuck Swindoll** - “There is **no more influential or powerful role on earth than a mother.** As significant as political, military, educational, or religious public figures may be, **none can compare to the impact made by mothers.** Their words are never fully forgotten, their touch leaves an indelible impression, and the memory of their presence lasts a lifetime. **I ask you, who else is anywhere near that influential?**

C. The IMPACT Of MOTHERS IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES.

1. look at the spiritual impact of mothers in Scripture
 - a. what happens if Moses’ mother does not take him to the home of Pharaoh?
 - b. what happens if Mary, mother of Jesus, does not raise him?
2. today, we look at the life of Timothy
 - a. Timothy became one of Paul’s closest friends and supporters in ministry **Philippians 2:19-22** – “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. **I have no one else like him,** who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. **For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.** But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”
 - b. who was responsible for the spiritual life of Timothy?
 1. there must have been:
 - a. a great father who loved Jesus
 - b. great spiritual men who disciplined Timothy
 2. in actuality, there were no spiritual men in Timothy’s upbringing; **only his mother and his grandmother.**

I. The LOVE Of Timothy.

A. Paul’s RELATIONSHIP To Timothy.

II Timothy 1:2 – “To Timothy, my dearly beloved son.”

1. Paul’s **memory** of Timothy.
 - a. in the book of Timothy, we read of a special friend of the Apostle Paul; his name was Timothy
 - b. Paul met Timothy on his **first missionary journey to Galatia**, in a town called **Lystra**
2. Paul’s **mentorship** of Timothy.
 - a. Paul would later take Timothy with him on his second and third missionary journeys

- b. Timothy, perhaps, spent as much time with the Apostle Paul as anyone else
- c. Paul and Timothy almost had a father/son relationship

B. Paul's REGARD For Timothy.

1. Their deep friendship.

Vs. 4 – “Recalling your tears, I long to see you.”

- a. Paul and Timothy had such a deep relationship that they both wept over their relationship

b. I would like to ask the men here today, what male relationships do you have that you would weep over?

2. Their joyful friendship.

Vs. 4 – “Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.”

- a. their friendship had two emotional extremes – deep sadness and deep joy

b. Paul and Timothy had the type of relationship that caused them to exhibit great joy when they spent time together

c. this was a “healthy” relationship between two men

- 1. affection
- 2. love
- 3. intimacy

C. Paul's REACH For Timothy.

1. Paul was in the Mamertine prison in Rome.

a. this was Paul's second imprisonment. Paul's first imprisonment was when he was under house arrest

b. and, this would be Paul's last imprisonment, as most scholars believe that he would eventually be beheaded in this prison

2. Paul was alone.

a. notice what Paul said in **II Timothy 4:9-11a** – “**Do your best to come to me quickly**, for Demas, because he loved this world, has **deserted me** and has gone to Thessalonica. **Crescens has gone to Galatia**, and **Titus to Dalmatia**. **Only Luke is with me.**”

1. the great Apostle Paul had been deserted by a man named Demas and left in jail by the others

2. as Paul languished in prison, only Luke, the Doctor, was with him to attempt to meet his physical needs

b. you can sense the **loneliness in the text**, can't you . . . so he sends for his best friend **Vs. 2** – “**My dear son,**” Timothy

1. of all of the people in the world, the Apostle Paul sent for Timothy to come to visit him

2. Paul needed a friend; a true friend in this time in his life

II. The LEGACY Of Timothy.

A. Timothy's SINCERE FAITH.

1. The character of Timothy.

Vs. 5 – “I have been reminded of **your sincere faith.**”

a. above all else, Timothy was a **real and genuine person**

b. the Greek word sincere comes from two words in the **Greek**

- 1. **an** – non; not

2. **hypocritos** – hypocrite
 3. put both words together and they make a “**NON-hypocrite!**”
 - c. in other words, Timothy was the **OPPOSITE** of a hypocrite, **HE WAS A REAL AND TRUTHFUL MAN!**
 1. Paul wanted an authentic, real unaffected spiritual friend . . . and he found that in Timothy
 2. apparently there was no “super spirituality” in Timothy
 - a. Timothy was a “real” person
 - b. we need real, authentic people with us in tough times
 1. Joe T.
 2. Dudley in Columbia
 3. **NOW, WHERE DID TIMOTHY “LEARN” TO BE SUCH A GODLY MAN?**
2. The **creator** of Timothy.
 - a. **Timothy’s depth of spiritual life was NOT from his father**
 1. the first mention that we have of Timothy was when Paul first went to Timothy’s hometown, Lystra.
Acts 16:1 – “He (Paul) went to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named **Timothy** lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose **father was a Greek.**”
 2. **DON’T MISS THIS!**
 - a. **TIMOTHY’S MOTHER WAS A BELIEVER BUT HIS FATHER WAS NOT!**
 - b. in fact, it simply said that Timothy’s father was a Greek
 1. more than likely, Timothy’s father worshipped Zeus and other Greek gods
 2. do you remember Paul’s visit to Athens where he addressed the very religious Greeks? (**Acts 17:22-23** - Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “**Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.** For as I walked around and looked carefully at your **objects of worship**, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.** Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”)
 - c. if anything, Timothy would have learned the “wrong things” from his unbelieving father
 - B. **Timothy’s depth of spiritual life WAS FROM HIS MOTHER(S)**
 1. let’s see who actually impacted Timothy’s life
 2. yes, it was his mother, but there was “another mother” as well; his grandmother
- B. Timothy’s STORY OF FAITH.**
1. The **faith of his grandmother, Lois**
Vs. 5 – “I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which **first** lived in your **grandmother Lois.**”
 - a. the **love of a grandmother**

1. **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE SPIRITUAL IMPACT OF A GRANDMOTHER!!**
 - a. **HOW MANY OF YOU CAME TO A SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST DUE TO THE PRAYERS OF YOUR GRANDMOTHER?**
 - b. my story of my grandmother
 1. my mother's mother from a "village" in Mississippi
 2. experiences with my grandmother:
 - a. visiting her Methodist church
 - b. in the hospital; probably praying for all of her grandchildren
 - c. I have gotten several e-mails from people this week who talked about the spiritual impact of their grandmothers on their lives:
 1. Prentiss McReynolds spoke of Grandmother Denson
 2. Andrea McNeil spoke of Grandma Parker
 3. Sarah Littlefield spoke of Grandmothers, Mamie and Emma Lou

2. **Philips, Craig and Dean – "Thank You For Praying"**

My fingers traced a stone etched with a date and a name.
Of a simple country lady, so gentle yet so strong,
 Her memory floods my heart as I recall.

She didn't have a lot, but there was something that she knew.

And it meant the world when she would say, "**Son, I'll pray for you.**"

And whenever she **would kneel beside her little rocking chair**

She'd turn her simple home into a **holy house of prayer.**

And though she's gone away

There's something that I really want to say.

Thank you for praying, praying for me.

I never could repay the time you spent down on your knees.

I'm where I am today because you chose to pray and intercede.

Thank you for praying, praying for me.

Everyone has someone in your life you can recall,
 A constant source of strength for you whenever you would fall.

And when you felt so lonely, in times of desperate need,

You knew that you could count on them to be down on their knees.

3. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, must have "set the stage" for his conversion
 - a. his grandmother must have been one of the first converts to Christianity in Asia Minor
 - b. she must have walked with the Lord when **nobody else around her did**
- b. the **location of a grandmother's love**
Vs. 5 – "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which **first lived in** your grandmother."

1. NOTICE WHERE LOIS', TIMOTHY'S GRANDMOTHER'S LOVE WAS – **"INSIDE" OF HER**

- a. **lived**
 1. Greek word **enoikeo**
 2. dwell
- b. **in**
 - a. Greek word **en**
 - b. to be in, inside of
2. Lois' faith and love was NOT just in her mind: IT WAS INSIDE OF HER HEART
3. **GRANDMOTHERS AND MOTHERS; LET ME REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING**
 - a. if your faith is **"outside of you"**
 1. you will live your life out of guilt and not of joy
 2. you will also demand of others that they live their life that way as well –

Dr. A.A. Alexander – "It is a good rule, even in the government of children, **not to legislate too much. Vex them not with trivial and unnecessary rules. Train them to govern themselves as much as possible.** That child who is obedient only **when the eye of the parent is on it, has not been properly managed.**"

- b. if your faith is **"inside of you,"**
 1. if following the Lord is a joy, then your children will "see" that your joy "causes" you to follow Christ
 2. I call it the "difference" between the Old and New Testament
 - a. there was a "limited amount" of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 1. colossal failures
 2. even "God's greatest" failed
 - b. the Holy Spirit was fully given in the New Testament
 1. **Jeremiah 31:33-34** – "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,"

declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and **write it on their hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **No longer** will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, '**Know the LORD,**' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD."

2. the change of 12 disciples

2. The **faith of his mother, Eunice.**

Vs. 5 – "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois **and in your mother Eunice** and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

a. Timothy had the **love of a mother**

1. we must understand Timothy's mother – and how "different" she was

2. Timothy's mother:

a. she was a Jew, who believed in the Jewish way of life

b. so, she lived like a Jew but anticipated the coming of the Messiah

b. Timothy had the **love of a mother** who was a **believer**

Acts 16:1 – "He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, **whose mother was a Jewess and a believer**, but whose father was a Greek."

1. Timothy's mother, Eunice, was a Jew who BELIEVED IN JESUS AS THE MESSIAH!

2. **AT THIS TIME IN THE EARLY CHURCH, HOW MANY OTHER JEWS AROUND EUNICE BELIEVED IN JESUS?**

a. Eunice was definitely in a minority in a Jewish world

b. but she still believed in Jesus as the Messiah

c. my mother – "one of a kind" who really knew Jesus

3. and like her mother Lois, Eunice had Jesus **INSIDE OF HER HEART**

1. she was a real, genuine Christian

2. perhaps Timothy witnessed how unique, how alone his mother was in a Jewish world

c. Timothy had the **love of a mother WHO HAD NO SPIRITUAL HELP FROM HER HUSBAND!**

1. because her husband, Timothy's father, was a Greek, Eunice was a **"spiritual single mother" raising her son Timothy**

2. to those mothers who have raised your children without the help of a believing father – take note:

a. by God's grace, Timothy's mother, **Eunice, raised a son** who:

1. would be the **Apostle Paul's dearest friend**

2. who would be a **Pastor to the early church**
 3. **two books of the New Testament** would be written to him by the Apostle Paul!
 - b. Timothy's mother influenced her son Timothy in such a way that he had:
 1. an absolutely pure, unhypocritical heart
 2. he was a real, Godly man to the core of his being!
3. The **faith of Timothy**.
- a. AS A RESULT of both his grandmother and his mother, look what Paul says about Timothy:
Vs. 5 – “I have been reminded of **your sincere faith**, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, **I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**”
 - b. **THAT SAME FAITH** that Lois and Eunice believed and lived, **NOW LIVED IN TIMOTHY AS WELL**
 1. Timothy had “**caught what they had taught**”
 2. Timothy did not learn the mental, theological approach of the Jews, but a living, healthy faith that would change his life just like it changed his grandmother and mother
 3. my story –
 - a. my grandmother – at Thanksgiving
 - b. my mother
 4. **Edith Schaeffer** – “Explaining the things of the Bible, of God's love and of future prophecy is not meant to be something separated into a **cubby-hole of “religious instruction”** or **family prayer**. As children grow older there is to be a **flowing unity in talking about history, present world news and science**. Children's questions must be taken seriously at the age of two and three, or they won't be continuing to ask you at twelve and twenty-three.”
 5. the “mistake” of my mother
 - a. church – perfect attendance
 - b. learned the catechism

III. The LIFE Of Timothy.

A. The CONTINUATION Of Faith

Vs. 6 – “**For this reason** I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

1. despite the great spiritual impact of Timothy's mother and grandmother, Paul “STILL” admonished Timothy NOT to allow the faith that had been given to him through his grandmother and mother to fade.
 - a. notice what Paul said to Timothy: “**For this reason . . .**”
 1. first of all, “for this reason” referred “back” to what Paul had said to Timothy; that he had been given the faith of his grandmother and mother
 2. and what Paul was about to call Timothy to do would be to a “continuation” of that faith

- b. also, notice that Paul admonished Timothy to “**fan the flame**” of his sincere faith
 - 1. meaning that the fire of faith given to him can become dim
 - 2. no matter how wonderful your heritage; no matter who were the people who modeled faith before you . . . **YOU MUST FAN YOUR FAITH YOURSELF!**
 - 3. the Greek is a **Present Active Infinitive** – meaning that you must **CONTINUALLY** fan that flame
 - 4. parents, it is wonderful if your children “catch your faith” – but they must be taught how to “continue” in the faith as well
 - a. disciple your own children
 - b. our children – we disciplined them in the 10th grade
- 2. one’s spiritual heritage can only “do so much.”
 - a. you cannot live the faith of others
 - b. you must have your own faith

B. The CHALLENGE Of Faith.

- 1. After Paul spoke of the impact of Timothy’s mother, he then lists what **EVERY CHRISTIAN MOTHER** should pray **AGAINST** for her children.

Vs. 7a – “For God **did not give us a spirit of timidity.**”

 - a. Paul challenges Timothy **NOT** to be timid in the faith
 - 1. the word is actually, to be a coward
 - 2. to shrink back from standing up for the faith
 - b. **THIS IS NOT A PEP TALK BY PAUL**
 - 1. no person can, in their own power, eradicate fear
 - 2. notice what Paul said – “for **God** did not give us a spirit of timidity.”
 - a. if God has entered our lives – **HE DOES NOT BRING FEAR WITH HIM**
 - b. if you are fearful, then rest assured that God’s Spirit is **NOT** in control of you
 - c. apparently, Timothy was a shy, reserved man
 - 1. **I Timothy 4:12** – “**Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young**, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”
 - 2. **II Timothy 2:1** – “You then, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
- 2. Paul then lists what **EVERY CHRISTIAN MOTHER** should pray **FOR** her children.

Vs. 7 – “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of **power**, of **love** and of **self-discipline.**”

 - a. a mother should pray for **spiritual power**
 - 1. knowing that we, as human beings, cannot “create” our own spiritual power, Paul reminds Timothy that God is the source of spiritual power
 - 2. the greek word is **dunamis**
 - a. from where we get the word dynamite
 - b. the meaning of dunamis is a power that comes from “within”

1. a “resident power”
 2. power residing in a thing
 3. dynamite; C-4; a hand grenade
 - c. when God’s Spirit enters a person’s life, He brings power “with Him”
 1. it is as if you are given a “battery pack”
 2. my conversion – “I wanted to”
 - d. this power that all mothers should pray for is the power that enables your child to live for Jesus
 1. the Christian life is **NOT** about rules and regulations
 2. verses:
 - a. **John 14:26** – “But the Counselor, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**”
 - b. **Acts 1:8** – “**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
 - e. in a sense, this “power” is the “engine” that powers a car
 1. recent story that I heard about a man traveling in an RV with no air-conditioning for 2 weeks
 - a. he just had to deal with it
 - b. however, during the last few hours of their trip, the man found a switch that turned on the air-conditioner
 2. your child cannot and will not live for Christ without the filling of the Holy Spirit
- b. a mother should pray for **love**
1. love here is not merely a “loving” feeling
 2. instead, this kind of love comes from God and allows you to “love like God”
 3. **SO . . . YOU MUST SEE THAT PAUL IS CHALLENGING TIMOTHY TO SERVE OTHERS**
 - a. that is why Paul challenges Timothy to be filled with God’s power, because he cannot and will not serve others in his own power
 - b. and that is why Paul challenges Timothy to be filled with God’s love so that he can love others
 4. it is inconceivable:
 - a. that as the Apostle Paul is facing his last days on this earth that he is simply wanting Timothy to be personally happy and fulfilled

- b. Paul's own life had been a life of ministry and Paul wants Timothy to spend his life serving others as well
- c. mothers, please don't "merely pray" and have a goal that your children be happy and fulfilled
 - 1. **pray that your children will impact this world for Jesus Christ**
 - 2. every one of us as parents are called to raise missionaries in one form or another
 - A.A. Alexander** – "I have read that someone asked an uncommonly devout woman how it happened that **all her children became spiritual at an early age**. The good woman modestly disclaimed all merit or agency in the affair—but she said, "**as many children as I have nursed. Each time I nursed them, I lifted up my heart in prayer to God for His blessing on that dear little infant.**"
 - 3. why did Samuel in the Old Testament become a prophet?
 - A. BECAUSE HANNAH, HIS MOTHER, GAVE HIM TO THE LORD BEFORE HE WAS BORN!**
 - b. Baptisms – I Samuel 1:11** – "And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but **give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.**"
- c. a mother should pray for **self-control**
 - 1. we need to understand the true, Biblical meaning of self-control
 - a. lest we think that Paul wants Timothy simply be a "person of order"
 - b. the KJV translates it as a "sound mind"
 - c. the meaning is to curb one's desires, to be balanced – **SO THAT A PERSON CAN FUNCTION BIBLICALLY IN THE WORLD**
 - 2. mothers should pray that their children are "so balanced" in their life, so wise in how they live
 - a. that nothing that comes along will cause them to lose their focus on Jesus
 - b. that they are so "in control" of their lives that they can spend their lives blessing the lives of others for Christ.

C. The CHARACTERIZATION Of Faith.

1. **WHERE** do you think that Timothy would “learn” such faith, such love, such balance?
 - a. he saw faith in his Godly grandmother, Lois
 - b. he saw faith in his Godly mother, Eunice
 - c. **IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF FAITH OF HIS FATHER!**
 1. Timothy must have realized that his father had no Biblical faith
 2. however, he saw faith clearly in the lives of his grandmother and mother
2. Where do you think that your children will “see faith?”
3. **MOTHERS, PRAY FOR BALANCE IN YOUR CHILDREN’S LIVES!**
 - a. how to balance all that they have to do **SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO WALK WITH JESUS!**
 - b. **NOT**, that they may be balanced so that they :
 1. can make good grades
 2. can make the team
 3. can get into a good school.

Conclusion:

1. **MOTHERS . . . AND GRANDMOTHERS, NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF YOUR PRESENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN!**
 - a. some of the greatest people who have ever lived would clearly say that their mothers were the **ONE PERSON WHO INFLUENCED THEM THE MOST**
 - b. do you realize that the Statue of Liberty is a replica of the sculptor’s mother! French Sculptor, Frederic Barthold, modeled the Statue of Liberty after his mother!
2. **AND . . . MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, BECAUSE OF YOUR INFLUENCE, USE IT!**
 - a. teach your children and grandchildren about the:
 1. the **power of God in YOUR life** – how He enables **you** to live the Christian life
 2. the **love of God in YOUR life** – show them what this kind of love looks like – **a love that lives for others and not for yourself**
 3. **self-control in YOUR life**– let them **see you pray, see you spend time in God’s Word, see you apply the Word** of God in your life
 - b. **MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, USE YOUR INFLUENCE!**
3. **Augustine**, or Saint Augustine, is considered by Encyclopedia Britannica as the most dominant personality of the western church in the 4th century. Augustine was called St. Augustine, Blessed Augustine and St. Augustine the Blessed. What you may not know was that Augustine was not always “so blessed.” Before his conversion, he lived a life of immorality, alcohol and promiscuity. Augustine lived with a woman for 15 years who was not his wife, fathering a child with her. All of this time, his mother, Monica, a Godly believer, prayed for her wayward son. Twice a day, she went to the church to cry out to God on his behalf.

One day, she found out that her son was fleeing to Rome on a ship. So, she went to the dock to confront him. Her son told her that he was simply seeing off a friend. His mother found out later that he had lied to her and that he had indeed taken a ship to Rome.

Monica continued to pray for Augustine. It was actually in Rome that Augustine came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Shortly after her son became a Christian, Monica said that she felt her work on this earth was accomplished. One week later, at the age of 56, she died.

An entry in Augustine's diary told of his love and appreciation for his mother's faith.

“My mother, your faithful servant, wept to You for me, shedding more tears for my spiritual death than other mothers shed for the bodily death of a son. For in her faith and in the spirit which she had from You she looked down on me as dead. You heard her and did not despise the tears which streamed down and watered the earth in every place where she bowed her head in prayer.”